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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Psychological Warfare

IMMEDIATELY after the Moscow radio announced Russia's willingness to lift the Berlin blockade—if the other powers would agree to a Big Four meeting on the status of Germany as a whole—Russian authorities jammed the air to prevent Voice of America broadcasts from reaching listeners behind the iron curtain.

The story has been first-page news in the United States and most of the rest of the world since that time. But the Russian press isn't covering the negotiations in New York, although it is well represented there.

Obviously, only the official Kremlin version of the Berlin settlement—if one is reached—will be known to the Russian public, if the Kremlin has its way.

Meanwhile, the May Day order to the Red army by Marshal Vassilevsky, minister of Soviet armed forces, asserted that American leaders were preparing a third world war and urged new successes in military and political training to combat "American aggression."

MARSHAL VASSILEVSKY'S bellicose statement and the news blackout Moscow has imposed on the Berlin discussions suggest that the limited settlement the Soviets have proposed in the Berlin situation is just that. The cold war seems likely to continue on other fronts, particularly where operations aren't as costly to Moscow as the Berlin blockade turned out to be.

However, Soviet tough talk will not conceal the Russian retreat in Berlin from that part of the world which has free access to the news. It will be noted that, when the western powers took a firm position, Russia paused, then advanced with an olive branch. Moscow's truculence may not seem quite so awesome in the future, if the United States, France and Britain retain the initiative and keep their united front.

Prompt Senate ratification of the North Atlantic defense treaty and congressional approval of the military-assistance program will make it easier to maintain that desired position—just as any unreasonable delay in acting on either issue will make it more difficult.

The rest of the world has not forgotten that an American President initiated the League of Nations idea, only to have it repudiated by the United States Senate. A demonstration is needed that this time we intend to follow through.

Appeasement Never Dies

THE Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, the only American newspapers in China, is critical of U. S. Senate action banning ECA shipments to Communist China.

"Of course," it remarks, "the Chinese Communists have more or less asked for something of the sort—that isn't the point at all. Simply because the other fellow is irritating doesn't always mean it is smart to go out of your way to irritate him in retaliation."

Cited as "irritants" were the recent Chinese Communist pledges to support the Soviet Union in any war with the United States and "the little matter of grabbing ECA supplies in North China." It would be better, the Evening Post and Mercury suggests, "for someone to stress the fact that the United States wants to help the people of China without going on record as for or against any given political party, clique or government." That, says the Post and Mercury, would be "an act of statesmanship."

We pumped UNRRA money into Yugoslavia on that theory, and in appreciation of our good will Tito shot down our unarmed airplanes.

Statesmanship? No, just plain foolishness.

We have lost enough face in the Far East as it is without resorting to what Asiatics would regard as paying blackmail.

But if the editor of the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury thinks he's got something, let him come home and run for Congress on that platform and he'll find out. There isn't much sentiment here for building up forces which are sworn to destroy us.

Don't Cheer Yet

THE bill for repeal of Federal margarine taxes and license fees has now been approved by the Senate Finance Committee and is ready for Senate action.

The committee did a fine job. It rejected the butter lobby's tricky scheme to prohibit interstate shipment of yellow margarine. It also rejected the amendment, proposed by Sen. Johnson of Colorado, for repeal of wartime excise taxes on a lot of things that have nothing to do with the margarine issue.

So the bill differs in only a few minor details from the one already passed, by a 287-to-89 vote in the House. But don't cheer yet.

The butter lobby is still on the job, still fighting to keep the unfair restrictions on margarine. Threats have been made that, if the bill is called up in the Senate, dairy-state Senators will attempt to tack on the Johnson amendment to revive the interstate ban on yellow margarine; or to filibuster the whole measure to death.

This bill deserves an early vote on its own merits. Given that, it is certain to pass the Senate and to be signed into law by President Truman. The butter lobby should not be permitted to thwart the will of those millions of consumers who want the right to buy yellow margarine without having to pay a heavy, unjust, discriminatory federal tax.

Phonies Have Slipped, Too

THE times are decadent. Even the phonies have deteriorated. Take that Philadelphia man who passed as a sailor, showed up only on paydays, and drew \$905 over a nine-month period.

In grandpa's day, when people had a little imagination, the man would have posed as an admiral, at least.

Give Them Badges

THE New York Communist trial recently disclosed that the FBI had planted still another undercover agent in the Communist Party. If this infiltration business keeps up, it'll get so you can't depend on a Communist as being even a trustworthy traitor any more.

CITIZENSHIP . . . By Jim Lucas

War-Exempted Alien Accepted

Becomes Citizen Despite His Refusal to Fight for U. S.

WASHINGTON, May 2—Uncle Sam has decided he didn't mean it when he said aliens who refused to help out in World War II could never become American citizens.

Solicitor General Philip H. Perlman said the government would not appeal the decision of an Iowa federal court granting citizenship to Kenneth Bouding of Ames, Iowa, an English Quaker whose "strong religious and philosophical convictions" kept him out of uniform and even a job in war industry.

The Selective Service Act of 1940, re-enacted in 1947, says able-bodied foreign males living in the United States can claim draft exemption. If they do, however, the law says "hereafter (they) shall be debarred from becoming citizens of the United States."

Mr. Bouding is a professor at Iowa State College. He admits he claimed exemption as an alien because of his pacifist convictions.

Citizenship Opposed

AFTER the war, Mr. Bouding filed application for citizenship. The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice opposed on the grounds he had not shown "sufficient attachment" to the Constitution—the measuring rod for citizenship.

Mr. Bouding said he had; that aside from his scruples against war he was deeply devoted to this country. Federal District Judge Charles E. Dewey of Des Moines heard the case and decided in Mr. Bouding's favor last December.

The basis for his decision was a 1943 Supreme Court ruling in a case involving a Canadian Seventh Day Adventist who applied for citizenship in Massachusetts. In that case, the alien said his refusal to bear arms was purely religious; that he had no other personal or political reason. Moreover, he said he was willing to accept a non-combatant assignment.

The Supreme Court ruled that service in the armed forces was not the only measure of a man's loyalty or his devotion to this country.

In total war, the court said, there are many who do not go near the fighting whose contribution to victory is as vital as the man with the gun—atoms, scientists, doctors, nurses, for example.

Moral Convictions

IT SAID a man whose moral convictions keep him out of uniform is in the same position as the man whose physical handicap or special skills keep him away from the front.

The court pointed out that aliens seeking citizenship must take an oath to "support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic." But so, it insisted, must congressmen and other public officials. The Constitution expressly holds, it said, that no religious test shall be imposed as a condition for holding office.

Judge Dewey held the same rule applied to Mr. Bouding. While conditions were somewhat different—in that Mr. Bouding refused even to accept non-combatant duty—he said it was "plain to see what they meant."

Thus, in the files of the Department of Justice, the Bouding case is marked "closed."

Mr. Bouding is now an American citizen.

In Tune With the Times

Barton Rees Pogue

EVIDENCE

You are not with us now, but you are not forgotten. You were such a gracious gentleman, with the charming manners of the old, half-forgotten days. You were very small and dainty, reaching scarcely to my shoulder. You dressed meticulously, and correctly for the occasion, always. You would not have dreamed of attending church without a hat, nor the opera minus immaculate white gloves. The modern unconventional annoyed you very much.

If you were ever unkind to anyone, associate or servant, I never knew it. Your voice was "ever soft and low, an excellent thing in woman." All obligations you faithfully met, any promise you made was loyally fulfilled. Sympathy was ever in your heart, and showed in your eyes, when others were distressed. If you could, you always helped.

Your welcome for me whenever we met held such warmth and sincerity it never failed to evoke a responsive glow. I miss you so many places, mostly in my heart.

—MABEL NEWMAN, Oakland City.

PORTRAIT

Oh, there's a certain something in the blueness of the sky—
That shines between the feather-clouds
The winds are whispering by—
And there's a hint of sweetness in the crisp and tangy air.
Though it might have blown across blue violets, somewhere—
The robin red-breasts search about for twigs and bits of string—
And my silly heart is dancing,
so I know it must be spring!
—MABEL NEWMAN, Oakland City.

High Cost of Gasoline

GASOLINE costs \$1.07 cents a gallon in Spain, 90 cents in Italy, 80 cents in Switzerland, and 70 cents in France. And that isn't the whole story. Filling stations are few, and reserve gasoline must be carried in traveling between countries. The French duty on such gasoline is 23 cents a gallon. Spare parts are expensive and hard to find.

A travel bond, costing \$75, is required of automobile owners in most European countries, as insurance that the car will not be sold on the black market. In addition, each country charges an entry fee on visiting machines.

Currency must be exchanged at each border, and always at a loss, for the legal rate inevitable is less than the open-market rate.

Careful. It's Habit-Forming



FOREIGN ROUNDUP . . .

By Parker La Moore

Life Abroad Found Difficult

WASHINGTON, May 2—American newsmen who travel abroad are finding life increasingly difficult and expensive, a condition which reflects the day-to-day living problems of the middle classes in many countries.

The vast wealth destroyed or consumed during the war will not be replaced soon. A measure of recovery is being achieved, but it is impeded by fear of another war.

The rich can hoard their money against better days, when investments in productive enterprise may be better secured. Communist pressures have enhanced the bargaining power of the working man.

Professional men, merchants and white collar workers are the victims of these business fears and labor pressures.

A friend visiting Stockholm wired his home office for \$500, and it lasted him eight days. When he got to Helsinki, he wired for \$1000, which he spent before he got to Norway 10 days later. Another American correspondent based in Stockholm says his routine expenses run around \$20 a day when he is at home and around \$35 a day when he is elsewhere in Scandinavia.

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Barbs

WHEN a compressed air tank blew up at a western college students probably thought it was a professor.

A FALSE alarm to a boy is when the house next to the school burns.

THE RULER sometimes is the difference between making a smart pupil and a pupil smart.

WASHINGTON, May 2—The decision of Sen. Raymond Baldwin of Connecticut to leave the Senate for a place on the Supreme Court of his state has been reported as though it were a clever political trick "put over by" scheming politicians. That is characteristic of those who become completely immersed in the atmosphere of Washington where the preoccupation with who gets what and why seems at times to exclude everything else.

It is much more than that. As the case history of a senator who came to Washington with a conscientious resolve to be a good public servant it deserves serious consideration.

On the day he left for Hartford to confer with Gov. Chester Bowles about the appointment to the court, Mr. Baldwin got a letter from a wealthy Connecticut Republican on vacation in Florida. The letter berated him for not paying more attention to his constituents and for certain stands that have classified him as at least a moderate liberal.

The Baldwin case history is important because, I am convinced, a great many conscientious members of Congress feel the same way. This is true in both parties, but it applies particularly to the Republicans who have spent so many years in opposition.

It does not apply, of course, to such stalwarts as Sen. Homer Capehart of Indiana. They know very well what the National Association of Manufacturers wants out of Congress, and what the NAM wants, the Capehart also want. They are living under the comfortable conviction of a bygone era that what is good for a few businessmen must inevitably be good for everyone.

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